

## **Resolution 2014-02**

### **Funding Alignment with Salmon Recovery**

**WHEREAS**, the Action Agenda identifies a funding strategy that, in part, recognizes and supports the importance of using existing funding more strategically and efficiently to carry out Puget Sound recovery efforts; and

**WHEREAS**, voluntary programs have become increasingly relied upon to support the recovery and protection of Puget Sound; and

**WHEREAS**, funding for these programs should be aligned with the best available science so as to achieve water quality standards, protect and restore shellfish beds, implement salmon recovery, and when specified by a tribe, achieve ecosystem objectives consistent with Traditional Knowledge; and

**WHEREAS**, the Treaty Rights at Risk Initiative is a call to action, intended to galvanize and energize response by federal, state, local and tribal governments and policy makers to reverse the decline of salmon and their habitat; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) identified interim minimum riparian management recommendations applicable to agricultural lands for voluntary grant programs operating in western Washington; and

**WHEREAS**, NMFS' interim minimum riparian management recommendations included a technical justification developed by NOAA's Northwest Fisheries Science Center, which must be accorded deference under federal law; and

**WHEREAS**, voluntary incentive programs focused on protecting and restoring Puget Sound habitat and resources should be coordinated to work strategically and in conjunction with one another; and

**WHEREAS**, these programs should address and encourage the implementation of projects that actually achieve water quality standards and protections for both salmon and shellfish;

**WHEREAS**, Puget Sound recovery efforts should be using a multiple benefit approach that addresses outcomes for water quality, shellfish and salmon recovery.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Leadership Council recommends the alignment of voluntary incentive public programs and funding with NMFS interim riparian management recommendations that will continue to advance recovery efforts towards achieving water quality standards, the protection and restoration of shellfish beds, and the implementation of salmon recovery, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that public outreach, technical assistance, and education efforts should also reflect these interim minimum recommendations for what is necessary to achieve water quality and protections for salmon and shellfish in riparian areas, estuaries, and other habitats critical to the perpetuation of these resources; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Leadership Council supports better data collection by those agencies administering voluntary incentive programs in order to ensure program(s) accountability for achieving progress towards salmon recovery goals, meeting water quality standards, and protecting and restoring shellfish beds; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Leadership Council also supports agencies, organizations, and private parties that are working with the support of the tribes in the affected watershed to try other approaches to implement riparian buffers that have a sound scientific basis and achieve all water quality standards and support salmon and shellfish recovery, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Leadership Council supports and encourages increasing the value and availability of incentives for agricultural landowners to voluntarily implement riparian buffers that achieve water quality standards and salmon and shellfish recovery objectives.